

**WASHINGTON COUNTY RAP ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 8, 2015**

Chairman Gary Sanders called the RAP Advisory Board to order at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, in the Conference Room of the Washington County Administration Building, 197 E. Tabernacle St., St. George, UT 84770. Those in attendance were: RAP Advisory Board; Gary Sanders, Summer Robertson, Douglas Caputo, Allison Hunt, Clyde Johnston, Todd Jones, and Richard Kohler. Others in attendance included: Representatives from the Historical Preservation Committee of Leeds; Mayor Wayne Peterson, Mike Empy and LoAnn Barnes, Directors of the Southwest Symphony JJ Abernathy and Gary Caldwell, County Administrator Dean Cox and Deputy County Clerk Cheyenne W. Bentley.

**WELCOME: CHAIRMAN GARY SANDERS**

Chairman Gary Sanders welcomed everyone in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 1, 2015**

**Motion:**       **Motion by Allison Hunt to approve the minutes of December 1, 2015 as presented. Motion seconded by Douglas Caputo and carried by a unanimous vote.**

**REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:**

RAP Board member Allison Hunt introduced JJ Abernathy & Gary Caldwell who were present on behalf of the Southwest Symphony Orchestra (SSO). Ms. Abernathy distributed a handout which explained how the SSO gives back to the community. It was her hope that the Board will consider them for a significant amount of funding. The Board advised Ms. Abernathy for future applications, not to plan on such a large amount of the overall budget to come from RAP Tax funds, as funds are limited. The Board, however, agreed that the SSO will receive partial funding for their projects.

**2016 Creative Aging Summit**

The Board questioned the artistic merit of the application but voted to consider the application further based on funding availability.

**Historical Preservation Committee Leeds**

Leeds Mayor Wayne Peterson explained that the project was to maintain and restore the last Civilian Conservation Corp. Camp left in the United States. He mentioned that of the 115 camps across the United States the only one left standing is the one located in Leeds. Any awarded funding would be used to restore the buildings to original 1930's state while maintaining the historical accuracy of the site.

The Board explained that the requested amount of funding will not be available and questioned if

only a portion is awarded, will it still help their cause? The Mayor answered by saying yes, that if the project can't be completed at once, restoration will still take place a little bit at a time. The Board voted to consider the Historical Preservation Committee's application further.

#### Dixie Watercolor Society

Gary Sanders explained that this organization does not meet the requirements to apply as they are a 501c7 organization and not a 501c3, and therefore, will not be considered for funding.

#### Lieto

The Board agreed that Lieto is a worthwhile organization, and mentioned that they are not seeking a large amount of funding. The Board voted to further consider their application for funding.

#### O.C. Tanner Amphitheatre

Mr. Sanders read aloud an e-mail that was sent from Deputy County Attorney Eric Clarke explaining that the Amphitheatre is ineligible for funding due to its association with Dixie State University per State Statue. Therefore, the Board will not consider their application further.

#### Southern Utah Arts Guild

The Board discussed and clarified that potential funding received would be used for an administrator. They then agreed that this organization would be a great addition to the Electric Theater and voted to further consider the application, but at a reduced amount of funding.

#### Southern Utah Song Writers Association

This organization is a volunteer based organization. The funding would be used for elementary outreach programs, where they would produce shows and workshops for the kids. The Board voted to further consider the application.

#### St. George Dance Company

Potential awarded funding for this organization would be used to expand the Red Rock Dance Festival to multiple nights, along with workshops. The Board questioned whether Tuacahn would be available to contract the venue. Summer Robertson explained that she is still waiting to hear a final decision. The Board voted to further consider the application.

### The Stage Door

This Board had several issues with how the application was put together, and agreed that the intentions for funding were unclear. The organization has not been active for around two years and the Board voted not to further consider the application for funding.

### Zion Musical Ensembles

The organization intends to use the funding to pay teaching assistants to teach music to beginners and those who have not played for a substantial period of time. It would also be used to cover concerts. Although the application was somewhat unclear, the Board voted to further consider the application for funding.

### A.R.T.S.

Although the Board agreed that there was merit based on the longevity and leadership of the organization, A.R.T.S. falls under the umbrella of The DiFiore Center and the Board agreed that they are already receiving their fair share of funds. They voted not to further consider the application.

### Washington County Commonwealth

The Board agreed that the primary purpose of this organization was education based rather than artist based. The Budget was also left blank on the application, and therefore, the Board voted not to further consider the application for funding.

## **UPDATE ON TABLED APPLICATIONS PENDING 501C3 STATUS**

Gary Sanders mentioned that he received the proper 501c3 form from the Redrock Writers, and with that they will be considered for funding. He went on to explain that he had reached out to both The Heritage Writers Guild and The St. George Book Festival, to which he received no response. It was then the decision of the Board not to further consider either of their applications for funding for this award cycle due to lack of response.

## **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Sanders mentioned to the Board to set aside a two (2) hour time slot for the ranking and recommending of RAP Tax funds during the next scheduled meeting.

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**Next Scheduled RAP Meeting: January 5, 2016**

Having no other business, the RAP Advisory Board Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

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CHEYENNE W. BENTLEY  
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

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GARY SANDERS  
CHAIRMAN